

**EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA
8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
THURSDAY AUGUST 20, 2015 – 6:30 P.M.**

Members	Attendance	April 2015- APRIL 2016	
		Present	Absent
Edna Elijah, Chair	P	2	0
Austin Scott, Vice, Chair	P	2	0
Gregory T. Boardman	P	2	0
Towana Bonaparte	P	2	0
Dr. Ciara L. Bostick	A	1	1
Maureen S. Dinnen	P	1	1
W. Jason Dunne	A	0	2
Rochelle Horowitz	A	0	2
Deniece Jones	P	1	1
Jennifer L. Kimmey	P	1	1
Sam L. Mitchell	P	1	0
Dr. Maureen Persi	P	2	0
Jonathan Schwartz	P	1	0
M. Elaine Wilson	A	1	1

**Appointed Members to the Board: 14
Needed to constitute a quorum: 8**

Staff

Junia Robinson, staff liaison

I. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance – Chair, Edna Elijah

II. Attendance by Roll Call – Chair, Edna Elijah

- New Board Member introductions: Sam L. Mitchell
Jonathan Schwartz

III. Guest Introductions:

Chair Elijah introduces Heather Brinkworth, District 3 School Board member (BCPS). Mrs. Brinkworth begins by introducing herself to the Board members as well as introducing Chief of Staff, Jeff Moquin, BCPS and Physical Plant Operations Director, Sam Bays.

Mrs. Brinkworth began the conversation by saying "I am here tonight to answer some questions you have about Stranahan High School". Chair Elijah asked if Mrs. Brinkworth could give a brief presentation and update on "what's happening" at Stranahan and the "gentleman may want to add to it".

Mrs. Brinkworth said, "just last Board meeting, the Board approved a contract for an "owner's rep. Owner's reps are going to be representing the School board as far as managing the projects. Stranahan and Northeast high school which happen to be two schools that need the most attention are going to be the first projects that the owner's reps are going to oversee". She said she attended a community meeting at Stranahan high school on July 15th and a presentation was provided to the community that was there to talk about the the timeline. Mrs. Brinkworth said she could have a copy of the timeline sent to Junia, (staff liaison). She provided the following information regarding Stranahan timeline:

- Music instruments is in progress starting August 2015...
- Pool renovations are currently being worked on....
- The football field turf is scheduled for December 2015....
- A school choice enhancement project slated for December 2015 for \$100,000. The school community votes on how funds are to be spent at the school.
- The computers and the IT infrastructure for Stranahan are slated as a project to begin in July 2016 and complete in August 2016.
- The major renovation project is scheduled to have the owner's rep authorized in August 2015.
- The project charter is scheduled to be completed in August 2015.
- The design and architecture and "RFP" development is scheduled for August thru November 2015.
- The contract award for the contractor is scheduled for February 2016.
- Design and permitting is scheduled for February to June 2016
- Construction to begin June 2016 to be completed August 2017...

Mrs. Brinkworth expressed that there is great frustration in the Stranahan community. She said "we all would like the timeline to be quicker". Mrs. Brinkworth said that it is important that "we do things right" and one of the questions that she has asked the Superintendent is "look carefully at the scope of the project is to make sure that it is going to bring Stranahan what they need and certainly try to address the issues that the community has".

Mrs. Brinkworth expressed that the district cannot make promise by previous boards in the past or previous Superintendents because "we don't have the funding to do that". She said "they are not going to get a brand new school" but what she is committed to is for Stranahan to get the "most that they can possibly get" and make it the best facility it can be with the resources that they have.

Mrs. Brinkworth introduced Mr. Sam Bays, Director for Physical Plant Operations who will talk about some of the current projects at Stranahan high.

Mr. Bays began by saying as the Director of Physical Plant Operations, his departments role is to sustain, maintain and fix schools.

He expressed right now the biggest issue at Stranahan is restoring the pool to full operation. Mr. Bays says "we expect that effort would take into the holiday season, late November is our current expectation". He said the project is a much more massive project than anticipated; Mr. Bays continued by saying "the deterioration in the pool is much more pronounced and the pool needs to be refurbished.

Mr. Bays shared that they are also involved in an indoor air quality assessment for the school. He said through their internal environmental branch they have acquired the services of an outside company to review the air quality at Stranahan.

Mr. Bays continued by saying the schools air conditioning is not servicing "well enough". They also have to clean for mold and mildew because the building is old and there is an accumulation issue with the dust.

The building also needs to be painted because the district stopped indoor painting during the "great recession".

Mr. Bays said "all but one noted exception; Stranahan has a sound temporary roof". He said it was installed after hurricane Wilma and he walked it a few days ago. Mr. Bays said the vast majority of building #1 is sound and has water integrity. Mr. Bays said "there is one segment of the building the lobby area of the auditorium, if you are intimate with that campus you will know, the lobby area of the auditorium is our worst roofing problem there". Mr. Bays said during the "great recession" the district stopped pruning trees and that's something that must be taken care of at Stranahan. Chair Elijah opened the floor to the Board for any questions or concerns regarding what they have heard so far.

Ms. Maureen Dennin asked "what is the scope of the renovation that is going to take place"? She continued by saying "I guess I have a two part question, is any high school in the district going to be replaced"?

BCPS, Chief of Staff, Jeff Moquin responded by saying "what I can tell you is no, when we did our needs assessment the district had about three billion dollars' worth of work, even with the good fortune of the bond being successful, I want to thank this Board and the City of Fort Lauderdale because I know you were so supportive of the bond". He continued by saying "but even with that it represents only a third of the need and so recognizing that we were to build a new high school it would be up to a hundred million dollars, you could see how quickly even \$800 million could be deteriorated, recognizing how vast the needs is across the district". Mr. Moquin explained the philosophy of the program which they labeled the S.M.A.R.T program is more about a "phased renovation as opposed to a phased replacement". He continued by saying their focus is on "life safety issues like single point of entry, fire alarms and sprinklers". "With the \$800 million dollar bond the district is able to repair all of the deficiencies". Mr. Moquin said the next thing they looked at is roofs especially with the water intrusions that Mr. Bays discussed earlier

Mr. Moquin said "Stranahan is slated to get \$18 million dollars plus worth of projects that will address: single point of entry, fire alarms, sprinklers, building envelopes, roofs, and HVAC systems across the campus".

Chair Elijah asked "how much of the roofing problem at Stranahan high school have been a quick fix until you do whatever procedure you're doing, prior to school starting"?

Mr. Moquin responded by saying "as Mrs. Brinkworth laid out the high level project plan, the actual construction of the major renovation are not going to actually start construction until next summer. So all of the issues that you see is about short term solutions to try and buy time".

Mr. Mitchell said "I heard you speak a lot about the pool renovations, my concerns would be air quality as we know there is a mold problem in that school, we know that there are roofing problems in that school but we continue to focus on the pool. I would like to know that those kids are going into an environment that's safe and not going to have to be sent home because of the mold problem".

Mr. Moquin said "excellent point, Sir. What I will tell you is that the pool project is being executed now not because it is the priority but because a lot of the work is being done by maintenance versus what we are doing is bundling up the larger renovation projects in order to gain efficiencies and also minimize the disruption of school so that it's not in a bunch of different phases". Mr. Moquin continued by saying "indoor air quality is a huge issue and a huge priority for the district. He said the Staff from the environmental department have identified a bunch of fix it problems regarding the air quality".

Mr. Schwartz asked the board what is the decision that we are trying to make tonight or is this more of informational"? Chair Elijah responded by saying this is more informational as to requests the board had regarding the media reports at Stranahan high. Mr. Schwartz suggested, in regards to the roof, there may be some "short cuts" that may assist with budget.

Mr. Greg Boardman said "I think the Stranahan issue and to ignore the past is an understatement. I think we have to go back to the past to realize that this community was promised and the School Board spent a million dollars on a master plan and there were numerous charrettes where we said we are going to replace this, when we did the needs assessment there were two parts to the assessment, it wasn't just the facility assessment, it was supposed to determine what programmatic deficiencies this school had". He continued by saying "I think that's where we are going wrong here. I think we really need to address some of those deficiencies, even if it's just a few of them because I think the main one with this school, well, I think its three. The first one is the cafeteria; this is only one of four schools that doesn't have a food court concept. Mr. Boardman continued by saying "spraying it, painting it, spackling it is not going to bring that school to where it needs to be in terms of equality with West Broward and other schools".

Mrs. Brinkworth responded by saying "I agree with you and at the board meeting we had Tuesday night, that's one of the things that I did bring up to the Superintendent. It is something I am advocating for Stranahan. I have been in the cafeteria, I was a

teacher at Stranahan, and it is not a scenario where 9th -12th grade students should be subjected to for eating". She continued by saying the district was looking at some solutions that were not in her opinion, in the best interests of the school. Mrs. Brinkworth said "there were support from my colleagues in addressing the cafeteria issue, I had a conversation with the Superintendent after the meeting and he indicated that it may be something that they will take a look at.

Mr. Bays said that the message that they got loud and clear is "let's go back and reevaluate all the criteria and see if we can put a framework around something that is fair and equitable that deals with these core deficiencies on a criteria basis.

Ms. Dinnen suggested the School Board looks at the entire district but that has been in the past a "critical needs list and not every school is equal".

Mrs. Brinkworth announced that there is a town hall meeting that's scheduled for Thursday, October 15th at Stranahan high school at 6:30PM. She said she will make sure her office sends all the information about this meeting to Junia, staff liaison to get out to all the board members.

Mrs. Brinkworth stated that the board has her commitment that she will continue advocating for to assure the community's message gets delivered.

Dr. Persi shared that Thursday, October 15th is the Education Advisory Board's meeting night and the Board.

The board thanked Mrs. Brinkworth, Mr. Bays and Mr. Moquin for the presentation and attending the meeting this evening.

Guest Introduction: Jay Forte, Neighbor Volunteer Office

Mr. Forte began his brief presentation by handing out flyers and stating he has nothing but positive things to share with the board. Mr. Forte said "I want to share a project that the Neighborhood volunteer office has been doing called a youth leadership program. He said the office is making this available to all the sophomores and juniors in City high schools. Mr. Forte said it's a free program that gives young people the opportunity to lead and become more civically involved an intergenerational youth leadership program. This program which is grant funded teaches them leadership opportunities. It's a five month leadership program that teaches kids the core competency of what leadership means. Volunteers are trained on how to be a mentor and are aligned with students. Each of the student's then do a community service project.

Mr. Forte shared experiences from Maverick's high school where at first there was some reluctance but the students really became "alive" during the process. The program is called "Show up Step up", he is encouraging board member participation and to spread the word about the program.

Chair Elijah thanked Mr. Forte for coming out and sharing this information to the Board.

Guest Introduction: Dennis Ulmer, Neighbor Volunteer, Community Resident

Mr. Ulmer talked to the Board about Soar with Reading Challenge. He said Jet Blue Airlines wants to give a City 100,000 books by going online and voting at www.soarwithreading.com. He said you can vote as many times as you want, there is no limit on voting and no information is needed.

IV. Current business

A. BCPS updates- Charles Webster

Mr. Webster began his brief updates by reminding the board that Monday, August 24th is the first day of school. He reminded the board to be cautious on Monday while driving to work as students, parents and school buses will be back on the road. Mr. Webster also shared some information for back to school that is on the Broward School Board's website. He said it's the www.browardschools.com/backtoschool. This website has all kinds of information like parent guides all sorts of links to stuff for parents that may be useful.

As mentioned earlier by Mrs. Brinkworth, Mr. Webster confirmed that there will be a town hall meeting on Thursday, October 15th at Stranahan high school at 6PM. He suggested since this meeting is the same night as the next EAB meeting, the board may consider have their meeting at Stranahan.

Mr. Webster announced the Coalition of Advisory Board meeting will be at South Plantation High School on September 03rd at 6:30PM. He invited the board and said this is the 1st time in six years that the coalition wants to invite all education advisory board members. Mr. Webster said that Superintendent Runcie will be there to greet the coalition as well as the new Chief Academic Officer Dan Gohl and Chief Facilities Officer, Derek Messier. Mr. Messier is in charge of all the school facilities and the S.M.A.R.T program. According to Mr. Webster, Mr. Messier will give all of the update on where the district is as it relates to the S.M.A.R.T program.

Ms. Robinson encouraged the Board to attend the coalition meeting with her because these meetings give the board members the opportunity to talk and engage with other board members in municipalities countywide.

Mr. Webster shared that he has moved to a new department and has a new boss. He will now be reporting to John Sullivan, Director of Legislative Affairs. The Legislative Affairs team works together with the Florida Legislature and Congress to boost funding and adopt policies that educate today's students to succeed in tomorrow's world.

B. Board discussions/member updates

Mr. Boardman shared information on Fort Lauderdale high school. He said over the summer building#8 was completed and students will be able to occupy that area on the 1st day of school. Mr. Boardman continued by saying the only phase left in the Fort Lauderdale high construction is the parking lot. He also thanked the Board for all of the support during his "situation". Mr. Boardman expressed how much he appreciated the members for supporting him during this time and everything is "okay".

Ms. Jennifer Kimmey shared that she has transferred from Fort Lauderdale High school and will now be teaching at Cooper City High School.

Ms. Dinnen asked "have we invited the Mayor and Commissioner Rodstrom of the October 15th meeting at Stranahan". Ms. Robinson replied saying "the invitation was sent by BCPS and they will be notified".

Mr. Jonathan Schwartz announced the Thanksgiving turkey trot scheduled on Thanksgiving day, Thursday, November 26th at 7:30AM at DC Alexander Park located at 501 Fort Lauderdale Beach. Mr. Schwartz said last year they had over 2000 participants and this year Superintendent Runcie will be the grand marshal.

C. City Staff update

Ms. Robinson, Staff Liaison welcomed the board members back after a long summer break. She shared with board members a recent article that was emailed to them regarding a student delegation from BCPS who visited China during the summer. Some of the students were from Fort Lauderdale high school. Ms. Robinson said she has reached out to the Principal at Fort Lauderdale High to see if the students from China could come to one of the EAB meetings and share their experiences.

Ms. Robinson shared that she attend the meeting on August 19th at the KC wright building hosted by BCPS on the Elimination of the Schoolhouse to Jailhouse Pipeline Committee and the meeting was extremely informative. She said she spoke to BCPS Staff to possibly give a presentation at an upcoming EAB meeting to talk about the new program called the Promise.

Ms. Robinson shared that she visited Maverick's high school along with Chair Elijah. She said that the Principal at this school would like to give a presentation to the board to clear up any "perceptions" the community has about the school.

Mr. Mitchell shared that he to attend the Jailhouse Pipeline committee meeting at BCPS and in 2011-1012, Broward County lead the state of Florida with student arrest. He said that 1,062 arrest and 752 were misdemeanors which means that any little thing that happens, these schools are being put in the judicial system. Mr. Mitchell really urges the board to contact Mrs. Mickey Pope from BCPS to come and talk about the Promise Program.

D. Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Association – Ms. Betty Shelley

Ms. Betty shared that she represents the Council of Civic Association which is a combination of all the civic associations in the City. She says there are 42 of

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Next Meeting and Closing

The next meeting is scheduled for, Thursday, September 17th, 2015,

City hall, 8th floor conference room